TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office

March 10, 2000 LB 1107

SENATOR JANSSEN: Senator Chambers.

Mr. President, members of the Legislature, SENATOR CHAMBERS: the first thing I want to do is extend my condolences to Mr. Ted Turner, if he and I are in the same economic condition. since he would be so unaccustomed to it, but I have grown accustomed to it, I will lend him a quarter, so the shock will be a little less difficult to bear. I'm opposed to Senator Wickersham's bill. I'm opposed to letting these localities, who do all this screaming and hollering about local control, continuing to come to the state and saying give us some money, give us some money. And Senator Wehrbein is correct, his point of view is different from mine, even though we might wind up at the same location, generally, on a proposal such as the one Senator Wickersham is offering. I'm not in favor of creating an obligation for the state far down the line from here. Things that are going well cannot continue to go well, just as things that go poorly will not continue to go poorly. There are ups and downs. As persons who are wise, we should take those things into consideration and not be swayed by the vagaries that occur in the financial health of the state. This boom that everybody is talking about, I see more as a bubble, but who listens to me? I'm E.C. Chambers, not E.F. Hutton. So when E.C. speaks, nobody listens, however, there is a transcription of everything that is said. I'd like to ask Senator Wickersham a question or two.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Senator Wickersham.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator...Senator Wickersham, there are a lot of school districts in the state of Nebraska. Is that true? I mean a whole lot of school districts.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: School districts, yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: If that number of school districts were to be reduced, would that reduce probably the amount of state aid that is needed, because reduction of school districts would mean combining or consolidating, and there could be a greater efficiency in the operation of these schools. Is that possible?